

**COMMITTEE DAY
LAKE PLEASANT, NY
MONDAY
JULY 25, 2011**

Members present:

Bob Edwards, Bill Farber, Barry Hutchins, John Frey, Ermina Pincombe, Clark Seaman and Neil McGovern

**FINANCE
COMMITTEE
1:40 PM**

Also present: Pete Klein

Bill explained the negotiations with tax collecting for the Lake Pleasant School and the County charging \$7.00 per parcel. The school decided to agree to the County's offer and do it for \$7.00 per parcel for one year. They would like us to print and mail them out also for the \$7.00. Bill and Beth talked about it and they felt it was a reasonable counter proposal.

Bill reported that there will be a resolution at the August meeting to move this forward at \$7.00 per parcel.

Bill reported that Tracy wanted to discuss the heating tanks in Indian Lake.

Tracy entered at this time. Tracy reported on the heating tanks at the Department of Social Services and the Courts wing at the Indian Lake Building. They are going to remove the tanks and put two tanks above ground. Fassler drew up the designs with a couple of different options. The designs are for two separate tanks, 500 gallons each. Tracy found two used ones. They are five years old and in good shape. The new tanks are around \$4,100 and the used are \$1,650. Rick thinks this is the way to go, the Committee also agreed.

As for the heating at the Lake Pleasant Garage, Tracy is still working on the specs for the propane boiler. Tracy feels the priority is the tanks in Indian Lake first and he hopes to start mid-August.

Tracy left at this time.

Bill wanted to speak about the HOME Grant Program. Bill explained how payment works with the program. The County has a good track record with receiving payments from the State. Bill suggested that the Board fund the account and pay the vendors before the State payments come in so that we can keep the vendors. It is difficult for the contractors to have to wait for their money. We don't want to lose contractors because of slow payments.

2:00 PM

Nancy Welch entered and handed out information.

Nancy reported that she received a sample of milfoil from Lake Durant this morning to identify. There is a native species and one is worse than the other so she sent it to Cornell to confirm the species.

Nancy stated that 15 years ago when she worked on the Water Quality Board of Franklin County they had talked about what a “threat” invasive plants could be. Nancy and another member suggested that they put in wash sites at the boat launches and DEC stated they couldn’t afford that, so much for saving money.

Nancy spoke about the three funding streams that Cooperation Extension receives from Federal, State and County. State picks up most of Cornell because apart from their allocation of actual dollars they also pay about \$30,000 for her office. The Feds who give the least amount also set their standards.

This is their 100th year anniversary for Cooperation Extension. They work in environment, family and youth, nutrition health, economics and community.

Nancy then reviewed her handouts. Under food nutrition and health, she applied for and got a \$3,800 dollar grant to expand their five community gardens. This addresses nutrition and how to grow vegetables.

Neil entered at this time.

Last year Raquette Lake only did the community garden, this year they have five families gardening. It is all about best practice, how to get the best out of what you do.

Nancy calls the food pantry in Indian Lake very couple of weeks and they are now breaking records, there are 75 families using the food pantry so it is a good thing they have expanded the gardens. Last year they harvested 3,000lbs of food for the pantry and they are hoping for 5,000lbs or 6,000lbs this year.

Nancy received a grant from NYSERDA to promote home energy and energy audits to businesses. It is paid for by the systems benefits charge that everyone pays; its part of your bill. The bottom line is they have huge amounts of money. The great thing about this grant is that it pays \$1,000 per month toward her salary.

Nancy continued to point out highlights in her handouts.

About a year ago administration stated that they had to form shared business networks in order to cut costs. They did and received \$100,000 to join with seven other counties, a big group, but small populated counties. The money covers IT, HR and also finance. She then applied for a grant with Herkimer County to contract their finance out to Herkimer who pays \$10,000 per year. They not only had that \$10,000 going toward finance but they also had shared business network and the grant doesn’t expire.

Nancy reported that she has been working with the Lake Pleasant Town Highway Department on adaptive reuses of wood chips.

Ermina is putting together a data base on loggers in our area, and men who work in the woods, because they are going to be our first line of defense with Asian Longhorn & Emerald Ash Bore Beetles which could destroy about 6% of our hardwoods. DEC hired a private company to hang

and monitor all the purple traps you see around, Co-Op Ext. used to do it. The Asian Longhorn Beetle will eat any hardwood, and the Emerald Ash Bore Bug will only eat ash trees and they are getting closer to this area. She is hoping the loggers will notify her if they find one, so that she can start action immediately. People need to be aware.

Nancy urged everyone to read her handouts.